

B. T. II. 6

VIINDICATION //

OF THE
M A N A G E R S
OF

The ROYAL INFIRMARY of
EDINBURGH,

From the Aspersions cast upon their Con-
duct in a late Pamphlet.

PROV. xviii. 17.

*He that is first in his own Cause, seemeth
just; but his Neighbour cometh, and
searcheth him.*



EDINBURGH:

Printed in the Year MDCCXXXVII.



*A Vindication of the Managers
of the Royal Infirmary of E-
dinburgh, &c.*

THE Humour of being an Author, and appearing in Print, has now so far prevailed, that Matters of all Kinds, whether religious or civil, give Work to the Printers, and become the Subjects of Pamphlets, according as different Persons affect ; and some are drawn into the Practice, who utterly abhor it. And so far has the Humour prevailed, that even Works of pure Charity are treated in the same Manner : Which very unexpectedly is the Fate of THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH, now so happily established, and authorized by his Majesty's Royal Charter, having a promising Stock, by the Donations of many charitable Persons of all Ranks, for its Support ; and Hopes of its being increased by after Donations, for making the charitable Erection of more extensive Use and Advantage than yet it can be.

This pious Establishment has been attacked in two Pamphlets, spread about by some

Gentlemen of the Corporation of Surgeons in *Edinburgh*; which has forced the Publication of what follows, in Justification of the Establishment of the Royal Infirmary, and for vindicating the first Promoters and Founders, and the Managers thereof, from the groundless Reproaches and Calumnies in these two Pamphlets.

Anno 1721, Proposals were made for erecting an Infirmary, which proved unsuccesfull. — In the End of the Year 1725, an Opportunity offered, which to the worthy Gentlemen of the *Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh* appeared favourable, for procuring Subscriptions for a Stock on which to lay the Foundation of *an Hospital for sick Poor*. They fram'd two different Forms of Subscription-Papers, and with the Assistance of a very few others, not of the Royal College, carried on the Subscriptions from *December 1725*.

The Royal College called a General Meeting of all the Subscribers against the 19th Day of *February 1728*, at which they did acquaint them, that the Capital first design'd for beginning the charitable Erection was subscribed for; and a Committee was appointed to call in the Subscription-Money, &c.

While the Subscriptions were carrying on,

on, the Royal College in a Meeting the 1st *August* 1727, came to a Resolution to bind themselves to regular Attendance, when ever the Hospital was erected; and this their Resolution and Engagement they caused to be published in the News Papers, as an Encouragement to charitable Persons to become Donors.

Previous to this Publication, the Royal College gave Commission to Dr. *John Drummond* senior, their Preses, to invite the Corporation of Surgeons to make the like publick Promise of serving in their Way. This Commission he did execute by informing the then Deacon of the Surgeons of the Proposal by the Royal College; but no Answer being returned, the Royal College did publish their own Resolution alone, and went on in taking Subscriptions.

The Royal College not only thus began the good Work, but continued to manage the whole Affairs of the Infant Society, as appears in the Minutes of several of the College Meetings. They applied for and obtained from the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, a Recommendation for a publick Contribution; they also applied to the Episcopal Clergy and their Congregations, and got their Contributions; they

they also obtained from the Ladies of the Assembly their Donations, &c.

The 16th of December 1728, at a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Infirmary, a large Committee was named for preparing a House to take in Patients, &c. and Mr. John Kennedy, then Deacon of the Surgeons, was named one of that Committee.

In considering the Plan for carrying on the Infirmary, one Difficulty *only* occurred, *viz.* how it should be served in Surgery and Pharmacy? It was thought unnecessary to apply to the Corporation of Surgeons, because of their formerly declining to be concerned, when applied to by the Royal College of Physicians.

Upon the 13th of January 1729, Mr. Alexander Monro Surgeon, and Professor of Anatomy, made Offer to serve *gratis* in Surgery, and to furnish all Medicines at prime Cost, which was accepted by the Committee, and he declared Surgeon and Apothecary to the Infirmary.

When the Corporation of Surgeons were apprised of Mr. Monro's Offer, and the Acceptance thereof, they (it seems) entertained some dismal Apprehensions and Consequences, which are to be observed in several Parts of their Appendix. To prevent which,

which, the Corporation at their Meeting 10th *February 1729*, determined to offer their Service by Turns, and furnish Medicines *gratis for two Years*. This was *verbally* communicated by Deacon *Kennedy* in name of the Corporation, to a Meeting of the Committee of the Infirmary on the 3d of *March 1729*.

At a Meeting of the Committee the 7th *April* thereafter, Mr. *Monro* did renounce all Obligations which the Committee might think themselves under of standing to his Proposal, but declared himself bound to fulfil his Engagements, if no other more advantageous Proposal for the Infirmary was made. And the Committee then taking under their Consideration the Proposal made by Mr. *Monro*, and the other by Mr. *Kennedy* in name of the Corporation of Surgeons, did agree in this Opinion, That a Corporation-Act could bind no particular Person to a Deed and Service of Charity, and that the Service of the Infirmary ought not to be on such a precarious Footing, and that therefore the Infirmary must be ascertained of the Performance of the necessary Service, by the Subscriptions of the several Undertakers; and it was recommended to the Deacon and the Corporation to make such Proposals (agreeable to the

the said Opinion) as they should think fit. At this Meeting were present *Charles Areskine of Barjarg, Esq*; then Solicitor, now Lord Advocate, *Patrick Lindsay, Esq*; now Member of Parliament for the City, *David Spence* Secretary to the Bank, Doctors, *Francis Pringle, John Drummond senior, William Cochran, Robert Lowis, John Clerk, John Learmont, Andrew Plummer, John Innes and James Dundas*, Messieurs *John Kennedy, Robert Hope and Alexander Monro*, Surgeons.

After this several Meetings of the Deacon's Council and other Surgeons were held, to consider of a Plan for the Infirmary's Service, and furnishing Medicines: About the last of which, there were different Opinions; severals thinking with Mr. *Adam Drummond*, that all the Drugs should be furnished out of one Shop, and the Owner to be paid out of the Corporation Funds, or by an equal Contribution by *the subscribing Members*; but others differing from him in his Proposal, of his Friend Mr. *Gilbert Laurie* being the Person who should have the Profit of furnishing the Drugs, did agree to a Proposal by Deacon *Kennedy*, That whether out of the publick Funds or private Purses (two great Points in Debate) a Shop should be furnished with Drugs

Drugs in the Infirmary, and a young Man hired to attend and serve as Apothecary. A third Set joined with Mr. *James Chisholm* in his Opinion, that each Surgeon should furnish, out of his own Shop, the Medicines prescribed during the Time of his Attendance.

Upon the 2d of *May* following, at a Corporation Meeting, when the several Proposals above were brought under Consideration, and Debates arising on each of them, and no Appearance of their being brought to a Conclusion, Messieurs *Alexander Nisbet, John Lauder and George Langlands*, did propose, that, for putting an End to all Debates, the Corporation should insist upon their former Offer, and refuse to give a Plan with the Subscriptions of particular Members, which was agreed to, and the Meeting broke up. Accordingly, upon the 5th of *May*, Mr. *Kennedy* gave into the Meeting of the Committee of the Infirmary, a Copy of the Corporation's Act mentioned above; notwithstanding this, the Committee, in tender regard for the Corporation, did not determine the Affair for some Meetings, but told the Deacon, that they must proceed in it, at their monthly Meeting in *July*, because the

firmary was to be opened before the Meeting in *August*.

On the 7th *July* 1729, the Day appointed for determining this important Affair, Mr. *Kennedy* (it seems) having no Plan for the Infirmary Service, by his Brethren the Surgeons, did absent. When the Committee was ready again to declare Mr. *Monro* Surgeon and Apothecary to the Infirmary, a Plan was laid before them for serving the Infirmary in Surgery and Pharmacy *gratis*, till the Patients should exceed a certain Number, with an Obligation to perform the several Articles, sublcribed by Messieurs *John Macgill, George Cunningham, Francis Congalton, Alexander Monro, John Douglas and Robert Hope*. This Proposal was accepted by the Committee, in which were present Sir *Hew Dalrymple* then Lord President of the Session, *Charles Areskine Esq; now Lord Advocate, George Drummond Esq; Commissioner of the Customs, David Spence Secretary to the Bank, Doctors John Drummond senior, Francis Pringle, William Cochran, Robert Lowis, John Learmont, Andrew Plummer and John Innes*.

Soon after this, the Infirmary was opened to take in Patients; and in *January* 1730, the Subscribers and Donors did agree upon

upon and settle Rules for its Management.

The Establishment met with very general Approbation, and all Things were kept in good Order in the House, the Patients daily visited both by Physicians and Surgeons, which gave great Satisfaction to all who took the Trouble to view the House and its Oeconomy, which encouraged new Donations to be given, and not the least Complaint made of the Establishment or its Management for the Space of more than six Years.

But in the Beginning of the Year 1736, some of the Corporation of Surgeons having projected a separate Hospital for sick Poor, or (as will instantly appear) having a Design to introduce themselves into the Infirmary as Surgeons, were pleased on the 5th March 1736, to write a Letter to the then Visiters of the Infirmary, now published by them in their Appendix, p. 6. signed by Deacon *Kennedy* Preses, without telling who were the Persons among whom he presided.

The Visiters acquainted the Deacon, that it would be proper for him to inform who the Surgeons were in whose Name he wrote, which he did by the following Letter.

Gentlemen,

IN Compliance with your Desire, I have sent you the following Gentlemen's Names, who authorised me to write to you my last Letter, viz. Adam Drummond, William Wardrop, William Wood, Gilbert Laurie, George Murray, Joseph Gibson, William Mitchell, John Deans, Francis Russell, Robert Smith, all Chyrurgeons in Edinburgh; but they are of Opinion you'll call a Meeting of the Managers of your Infirmary, where they expect a Committee will be appointed to commune with them on what Terms we are to be received as Surgeons there. This they ordered to be communicated to you by,

Edin. 30th March, Yours, &c.

1736. Jo. KENNEDY.

These two Letters were laid before the ordinary Managers of the Infirmary on the 5th of April thereafter. Several Difficulties were obvious at first reading of them; and therefore a Committee was appointed to converse with the Surgeons, in order to have their Proposals explained. After a Communing betwixt these of the Infirmary, and Mr. Kennedy and some of his Brethren, and a Report thereof made to the Managers, Mr. Kennedy, in name of his Brethren, gave in signed Proposals, in the Form

Form now printed in their first Letter and Appendix : To which the Answer, or Memorial also in that Appendix, was given by the Managers of the Infirmary. To that Memorial the Surgeons were pleased to make a Reply, which Mr. *Kennedy*, and a Brother with him *in Person* gave in to the General Meeting of the Managers, though in Course it ought first to have been laid before the ordinary Managers ; and therefore it was remitted to the ordinary Managers to give their Report thereon.

Very soon after this, his Majesty's Royal Charter was obtained, erecting the Contributers into a Corporation, and appointing Managers until the first *Monday of January 1737*, by which the old Managers were exauctorated, and could not carry on the Treaty with Mr. *Kennedy* and his Brethren, and no new Application was made by them for renewing the Treaty.

It must here be observed, That after deliberate Perusal of the first Letter of the Surgeons Erectors, their Proposals for a Coalition, and their Reply to the Memorial of the Infirmary Managers, it will easily appear, that the chief Design of Mr. *Kennedy* and his Brethren, was to introduce themselves into the Management of the Infirmary, and if they miss'd that, to lay a

Foun-

Foundation for a Paper War, to decry the Establishment and Management of the Infirmary, and to vent Reflections on the Managers, and the six Gentlemen who have so generously served, and furnished Medicines *gratis* from the Beginning to this Time, in order to extol their own Design of a separate Hospital, and as much as in them lies to hinder Donations to the Royal Infirmary, and prevent its Success. This will appear to any who shall take the Trouble to peruse the Memorial and Appendix printed by the Surgeons, and compare them with what is here exposed to publick View.

While the Surgeons Erectors kept from indecent Reflections on the Establishment of the Royal Infirmary and its Managers, it was believed that the slanderous Prattle met with in Companies on that Head, was either the little Malice of some particular angry Person, or forged by some others and put in their Names, as seem'd probable by what was said by some of these Gentlemen when spoke to, and the Dissatisfaction they shew'd with the Things that were repeated. But now that they have reprinted their first Memorial with a large Appendix, which (on Belief that all that is said in it is true) is received as a genuine Narrative of Facts;

Facts ; In which Appendix the Managers of the Royal Infirmary are represented in a Light very different from what the World formerly saw them in. It is therefore thought proper to inform the Publick by the preceding Narrative what have been the Transactions concerning the Infirmary, from the Time of its being projected by the Royal College of Physicians, and how it came to be provided with Physicians and Surgeons.

It is hoped the Surgeons Erectors will not hereafter affirm, as they have done (*a*), That the Royal College of Physicians made any Offers of their Service to the Managers of the Infirmary, as soon as the Infirmary was erected, which were accepted ; or that any sign'd Paper was ever given by them, since their Resolution to serve was in *August 1727*, when there was no Infirmary ; and the first Meeting of the Subscribers to the Infirmary was not till *February 1728*.

That Mr. *Kennedy* had any Conferences with his Brethren, or those concerned in the Infirmary, when the Resolution of the Royal College was first made (*b*).

That it was the Obligation only required

(*a*) Append. p. 2 and 3. (*b*) Ditto.

fed of the Surgeons which made them reject the Managers Proposal, or that a Bond with a Penalty was required of the particular Members of the Corporation for serving the Infirmary (a).

That the Managers made Choice of their Surgeons before the Corporation had Occasion to consider their Opinion, and while their Refusal or Acceptance was uncertain (b).

That Apologies were made by the Managers without Doors, for their Conduct in the Choice of Surgeons (c).

That the six Surgeons of the Infirmary were admitted without Security or Obligation (d).

Those Facts, and some others, 'tis hoped they will no more affirm ; and will at the same time acknowledge, that there are good Grounds for saying, That the Corporation did decline being concerned when it was first proposed, and that it was their unreasonable Suspicions of one Man being made sole Surgeon, (which (e) they now acknowledge would have prevented their present Clamour) and their own warm Debates, mentioned p. 3. and explained above, that

(a) Append. p. 2 and 3. (b) Ditto. (c) Ditto. (d)
Ditto. (e) Ibid. p. 21.

that brought about the Election of six Surgeons for the Infirmary's Service.

As to what is said of Mr. *Kennedy* and Mr. *Young* their being invited to serve in the Infirmary (a); the Managers never heard of such an Invitation: And after Enquiry, all that can be learn'd about it is, that Mr. *Kennedy*, after the warm Debates in the Corporation, was asked by one of the six Surgeons now in the Infirmary, whether he would join in such an Obligation to serve the Infirmary, as some of the Members were then thinking of? He excused himself, because he thought it a Thing dishonourable for the Preses of the Society.

Upon these and other groundless Assertions and Facts artfully disguised, a great deal of Clamour is raised, and scandalous and unjust Reflections vented against the Infirmary, its Managers and Surgeons, as having very bad Views and Designs.

When an Author asserts Facts, without enquiring into the Truth of them, he generally falls into Inconsistencies in arguing from them: Let us therefore see how the Surgeons Memorial and Appendix will stand this Test.

They concluded, that the Erection of a
C new

(a) Append. p. 4.

new Hospital was *the only proper Means* by which such Numbers of sick Poor could be duly taken Care of (a). But it immediately occurred, that the erecting a new Hospital, or enlarging the old one, *would equally serve the same Ends.*

The World is to believe that the Education of Students in an Hospital here, is to be confined to those in the Shops of the six Surgeons in the Infirmary (b). They produce an authentick Voucher given to them long before this Complaint, that the Managers of the Infirmary had it always in their View to make this Education by the Infirmary as general as possible, which continues to be the Purpose of all concerned about the Infirmary (c).

So many Surgeons as they proposed were not necessary (d).— Yet throughout the Paper it is thought an Injustice, if not a Crime, to have fewer, or to debar any who offers to serve.

An Act of the Corporation of Surgeons is sufficient Security for the Service of the Hospital (e): But the first Step taken towards erecting the new Hospital, was the Undertakers signing a Bond of Erection (f), &c.

Rival-

(a) Mem. p. 5, 6. (b) p. 9. (c) App. p. 40. (d) p. 5
(e) p. 3. (f) Mem. p. 5.

Rivalships do Good, as Monopolies do Harm.—And yet the Surgeons in their Proposals to the Managers of the Infirmary, and the Arguments for a Coalition, are by them propoed to prevent the Good of Rivalship (a).

Rivals, say the Surgeons, do Harm to one another (b), but their Rivalship cannot clash with the Foundation of the Royal Infirmary, nor the one Scheme prove prejudicial to the other (c).—And their Rivalship will do Good (d). *Strange Contradictions!*

Before the Articles of Accusation in this Pamphlet are taken into Consideration, one Thing is needful to be remarked, That the Author has all along confounded the Managers of the Infirmary with the Surgeons that serve in it, as if the Deeds of the one were the Acts of the other; and at last the Publick is told, that the Infirmary Surgeons are the Managers (e).

With how good Reason the Surgeons are said to be the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, let any judge who has been the least acquainted, or ever read the Rules of Management published long ago. Of the Com-

(a) Append. p. 25. (b) p. 27. (c) p. 7. (d) p. 18.
(e) p. 25.

mittee of twenty two, to whom the Management of the Infirmary was at first committed, in which the Opinion concerning the general Act of the Corporation of Surgeons for attending and furnishing Drugs was given, three only were Surgeons; of whom two were among the keenest at the Board of Surgeons for the Service of the Incorporation; and the third, being in some sense a Party, gave no Opinion. Of the twenty Managers, who have acted since the Rules of Management were settled in *January 1730*, there never have been above three Surgeons at once, none of whom are in the Management *qua* Surgeons in the Infirmary: And of these three there is only one who has been above two Years at once, and that one has not been so long a Manager as several Gentlemen who are not Surgeons.

The List already given of the Gentlemen present at the two Meetings of the Committee, in which the Affair relating to the establishing the Infirmary Surgeons was concluded, might of itself shew how little Trouble the Writer of the Appendix has been at to be informed of the Facts asserted by him so strongly on that Head (a). Tho' th e

(a) Append. p. 25.

there were no such strong Facts to discover the Inconsistency of three Surgeons being the Guides, whom seventeen Gentlemen of superior Rank and Understanding, of Honour and Probity beyond Exception, and who have shewn their disinterested Zeal for the Good of their Country on several Occasions, would blindly follow, in Breach of their Oath *de fideli* taken at their Admission; the Assertion is so glaring that none can believe it. Are these three Surgeons, constantly too in the Management of the Royal College of Physicians and of the Honourable Society of Writers to the Signet, to lead the one to refuse their Attendance on the Surgeons Hospital, in the manner they do the Royal Infirmary, and the other to deny their Money to the Surgeons Hospital ?

The first Accusation brought by the Writer of the Memorial and Appendix against the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, is, their being of Opinion, that the Act of the Corporation of Surgeons was not binding on the particular Members to give their Attendance and Medicines *gratis*. — As to which,

An Act of the Corporation is to be sure the Security they give for Money, and may be safely accepted by their Creditors, or the

the Managers of the Trades Hospital: But that is widely different from the present Question about Attendance *gratis*, and Contributions out of private Pockets. The best Lawyers of the Nation, the late Lord President of the Session, the present Lord Advocate, and several others whom the Managers advised with, gave it as their Opinion, that such an Act was not binding on the particular Members of the Corporation: And the Erectors of the Surgeons Hospital have in their Erection shewn that they were of the same Opinion; for the first Step towards erecting their Hospital, was their subscribing a Bond of Erection: Nay, it appears from the Narrative, that the Opinion of the Managers of the Infirmary (that the Act was not binding) was not what made the Incorporation return no Answer to the Managers, but that they could not agree upon any Plan for furnishing Medicines (a). What is said further of this Transaction in the Appendix is altogether a Mistake, and in the next Edition must have a general *Dele* put to it.

More than once a Complaint is made of the Managers of the Infirmary their having given no Answer to the Surgeons Erectors
their

(a) Mem. p. 3.

their Reply ; but these Gentlemen ought to have told, that they could not possibly have any Answer from them, because the Managers, to whom they delivered that Paper on the 1st *Monday of July*, were ex-auctorated (as already noticed) and the new ones in the Patent never were applied to by the Erectors ; so that if any Fault was committed, it was on the Part of the Erectors. If ever the Managers of the Royal Infirmary acting now by publick Authority, have the Proposals of the Erectors of the Surgeons Hospital made to them, they will, it is presumed, receive or refuse them, according as they shall think most for the Interest of the Royal Infirmary and of the Publick, without Regard to the particular By-views of this or that Set of Surgeons.

The Question may come before the Managers, Whether they should accept their Proposals, or continue to employ the Surgeons who have hitherto served the Royal Infirmary ? It will not therefore be amiss to examine a little the Conveniencies and Inconveniencies which attend each Scheme.

At present the Managers of the Royal Infirmary (among whom there must be several good Judges of Surgery, though not Surgeons, to wit, the Preses, and at least

two other Members of the Royal College, and two Professors of Medicine) are left to chuse whom they think fit as Surgeons for the Infirmary, and may order what Regulations they think proper. If the Erectors Proposals are accepted, all who offer indifferently must be admitted. Nay the Argument in the Appendix concerning Monopolies would oblige the Managers of the Infirmary, not only not to refuse any Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, but every one who would come with a Lancet in his Hand, whether he had ever employed it or not, or ever practised any Operation of Surgery, must be admitted equally with the Chairman, or any other Member of the Corporation ; and it might be a Question, whether the Managers could turn any out who attended and gave Medicines, let their Maleverations otherwise be what they would.

But, supposing those who push the Argument for unrestrained Liberty, to be graciously pleased to drop it in their own Favour, and that the Managers are to confine the Surgery of the Infirmary to the Incorporation of Surgeons in *Edinburgh*; the Managers may easily imagine, how happy a Situation they would be in, as Masters of Servants, who in making Offer of

of their Service, have every where in private, and now in their Appeal to the Publick, been so liberal in their Reflections on their Masters, and who pretend to force the Acceptance of their Service.

There lies one Objection to the receiving the Erectors of the Surgeons Hospital to be Surgeons of the Infirmary, which can never be dispensed with ; it is this : The onerous Cause of granting seclusive Privileges of Surgery to the Incorporation of Surgeons in *Edinburgh*, was in Consideration of the exact Trial and Examination all their Membets were to undergo at their Admission, by which the Publick might be ascertained, that all the Surgeons would certainly be capable of their Business : Yet, not long ago, in order to make Way for their getting the seclusive Privilege of Pharmacy too, they admitted fifteen Apothecaries at once, for Payment of a certain Premium a-piece, without any Sort of Examination, for very obvious Reasons.

Eight Years Experience has convinced the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, that Concord and Unanimity has always been among the six Surgeons whom they have hitherto employed.

If there was no Objection to the Men,

D

yet

yet such a Number of Surgeons would be prejudicial, because the Methods of Cure would be too frequently varied ; and tho' no Hurt should be done thereby to the Patients, yet the Students could form no Judgment which Method had made the Cure, or what they could rely on afterwards in their Practice. The Erectors seem to have been aware of this ; and therefore, instead of explaining themselves on the Head, they have mentioned only the Inconveniency of Number as an Objecti-
on equally competent against the Royal College of Physicians, who have hitherto attended the Infirmary in their Turns. Se-
veral of the Members of the College are sensible of the Inconveniency of their Number, and are thinking how to remedy it, which the Managers could not well do, because the Attendance of the College was an Article of the Constitution fix'd by the Founders, before there was any Infirmary or Managers. Besides the constant Harmony which is among the Members of the Royal College, and the Information each can have of the Effects of the Medicines prescribed by his Predecessor, from the Surgeon, who is of longer Attendance, prevent the bad Consequences which the frequent Change of the Physician might otherwise have. The

The universal Practise of appointing few Surgeons for Hospitals every where else, confirms what was just now said, concerning the bad Effects of a great Number of Surgeons being employed. No, says the Writer of the *Appendix (a)*, the Reason of few Surgeons in other Hospitals, is, that each must have a Salary. Strange ! Hospital Surgeons here (*b*), may get what Reputation and Money they will, and Surgeons must be hired to accept of the Office every where else.

The other Advantage proposed to the Infirmary in their Choice of Surgeons, is, the Increase of its Funds ; and the Surgeon Erectors have proposed a Scheme to the Managers, by which, between saving and gaining, a Revenue equal to the Interest of some more than *L. 2000* may accrue to the Infirmary. If this Advantage, supposing it true, was to be put in the Scale, against the Inconveniency of Numbers just now mentioned, it might be a Question, whether the Managers of the Infirmary would chuse to encrease their Funds at the Expence and to the Prejudice of the poor Patients, and to the Loss of the right Education of our Youth. But that there may

D 2

be

be no Question, there is a Plan ready to be laid before the Managers, and has been already communicated to severals of them, by which it is made appear, that if these Surgeons Erectors are not admitted, the Savings and Increase of the Revenue shall be near double of what is in their Scheme.

It ought to be here remarked, that the present Surgeons of the Royal Infirmary refused an Allowance for Drugs to be appointed several Years ago, when the Managers made the Offer, and ever since the Order for Payment of Drugs was made by the Managers, the Surgeons have not accepted of Payment but granted Discharges to the Treasurer,

Let us next take a View of the Proposals by the Surgeons Erectors with regard to the Publick.

The most general Concern the Publick has in this Question, is, that the sick Poor shall be well taken Care of.

The publick is left to determine, from what has been said, whether a few Surgeons, elected by good Judges, and whose Continuance in Office depends on their good Behaviour, or a Crowd of Surgeons forcing their Way into Office without any Choice, and possibly not accountable for their Malversations, will answer this De-

sign

sign best ? Whatever general Conclusion is made determines the Question which Set of Surgeons ought to be preferred.

It is next said, that the more Students in Physick and Surgery will get right Education by the Scheme of the Erectors. Prudence should have made the Writer of the Memorial be silent about this Article, since he had resolved to publish in the Appendix a Declaration of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, of their Resolution to give all Opportunities of Education in their Power to Students and Apprentices; which by comparing the Date of that Declaration, or of their Reply to it, *July 1736*, with the Date of the Memorial *February 1737*, evidently was in the Erectors Hands long before they made this publick Complaint. What would seem to be the plain Consequences as to the Education of Students, by either Alternative of their Proposals for being admitted Surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, or keeping up a Rival Hospital, are, *1mo*, That no greater Number of Students will be educated by either of these Plans. *2do*, That by receiving all the Erectors as Surgeons of the Infirmary, the whole Students will be worse educated. *3ti^o*, That by their setting up another Hospital, all the Students will see less Practice, and

and a Part of them will have worse Education than will happen if neither of their Plans is executed.

The Publick is afterwards informed by the Writer of the Memorial and Appendix, what mischievous Things Monopolies are, and particularly, what bad Consequences will attend the confining of the Service of the Infirmary to six Surgeons.

A general Condemnation of Monopolies, from Members of a Corporation in *Edinburgh*, and of one too, which has been particularly jealous of its Privileges, as severals of the Erectors can testify, was very unexpected, and possibly may be taken Notice of by their Brethren: And indeed the Argument here for Liberty, is the same Way abused as is common with too many of our modern Writers. No Government, Civil or Ecclesiastical, can be without some Monopolies; particular Offices must be executed by Men appointed for that Purpose, and every one who offers his Service is not to be accepted, otherwise an End must be put to all Order in Society, and in its place Confusion and Anarchy must prevail. But this general Argument shall be left to the Consideration of the several Incorporations; here it shall only be enquired what Mischief is likely to arise to the Publick from

from their being only six Surgeons in the Infirmary.

The confining a right Education in Physick and Surgery to the Students and Apprentices in the Shops of the six Surgeons, alledged by the Erectors to be the principal Mischief arising from this small Number of Hospital Surgeons, has already been taken Notice of, and it has been shewn that these who enter this Complaint and Objection, know for certain, that the Managers of the Infirmary had resolved to give all Opportunities of Education in their Power to the Youth (which the smallness of their House only has hitherto hindred) long before the Complainers published either of their Papers, wherein this Objection is so much insisted on.

It is also alledged, That the Education will be more expensive, by larger Prentice-fees which the Surgeons of the Infirmary have already got, and will hereafter receive. — If this were an Imposition, Is it to be supposed that the Erectors would not partake of this Advantage? — Some of the Infirmary Surgeons have, it may be, got larger Prentice-fees than they had formerly; others have not: And the highest Fee that is demanded is not larger in Proportion to the Usage the Prentices now have, than

than it was forty Years ago ; all that is asked is only equal to Board, and their Education and Privilege of Freedom to be compensated by their Service. These sume are no extravagant Terms, and what several had before there was any Infirmary.

The Surgeons of the Infirmary have likewise, it is said, Numbers of Students, and large Honoraries from them : Suppose it were so at present, that Advantage to the Surgeons will soon be at an End ; for the Managers did agree long ago, that so soon as their House is large enough, the Opportunity of attending in the Infirmary should be had, without being Student with any of their Surgeons ; and that the Infirmary, not the Surgeons, should have the Gratuity payable for that Privilege. This was the Plan agreed upon by the Managers, before there was the least Surmise of this Surgeon's Hospital : Nothing will prevent its being executed in a few Months, unless the Clamour raised so unjustly by these Gentlemen Erectors of the Rival Hospital, influence pious charitable People to with-hold their Contributions towards the building of a fit House, for which a convenient, open healthy Area is purchased.

What is just now said, makes it almost unnecessary to mention a particular Fact that

that has often been alledged, to wit, That the Infirmary Surgeons take Money for Infirmary Tickets from other Prentices and Students than their own. If this had been true, it will not be in the Power of these Surgeons to put such Money in their Pockets hereafter. But as much Noise as has been made about this alledged Fact; an Inquiry having been made into the Grounds of the Accusation, there cannot be found more to support it than one Instance, of a young Gentleman, Prentice to the former Prentice, of one of the six Surgeons, who, at the Entreaty of his Master, obtained a Ticket, and gave a Compliment in Return. Several, not Students with any of the six Surgeons, have regularly attended, without any Ticket; others have had Tickets given them, without paying a Sixpence in any Shape; the Money got for Tickets from Strangers, has been paid in to the Treasurer of the Infirmary. And when the House was not too much crowded, several, whom the Surgeons knew not, were allowed to be present at Operations and Dressings, without *Præmium* of any kind.

Future Ages are next warned to beware of the Consequences of a few Surgeons engrossing all the Business of Surgery, which,

it is said, Hospital Surgeons have done, and *must do*, in this Place.

To convince us what a general immense Loss this would be, these Gentlemen would do a Favour, to tell what their Profits, *communibus annis*, have been by Surgery, after deducting the Payments of Bloodings, opening Abscesses, dressing Ulcers, and such other smaller Things in Surgery, for which no extraordinary Surgeon is called: If that is inconvenient, the Town may take another Way to judge for themselves. Let them read over again the Names of the six Infirmary Surgeons, and then determine, Whether the Name of Hospital Surgeon has made any great Change in the Business of Surgery.

All that seems like Argument for a Coalition of Hospitals, as the Proposal of the Surgeon Erectors modestly calls it, has now been considered; and every one is at Liberty to judge, how prudent it would be, or how advantageous and useful for the Infirmary, or the Publick, to make Use of these Gentlemen as Hospital Surgeons.

As to the little Insinuations and Reflexions against particular Persons, though not named, liberally scattered up and down the Memorial and Appendix, they are thought unworthy of Notice.

It remains still, that the Arguments for proving the direct contrary of what was pleaded so earnestly in the Memorial, and first part of the Appendix, should be considered.— At first, All Rivalship should be destroyed by a Coalition : Towards the Conclusion, Rivalship is most necessary and advantageous.

Can any tell the real Sentiments of this Writer ? From some other Projects of the most pragmatick among the Surgeon Erectors, one would believe, that Rivalship would be the favourite Scheme. The Question desired to be put to the Professor of Anatomy, p. 18. What Consequences one of the Erectors teaching Anatomy would have with respect to him ? is no simple Comparison : No, it is a real Threat. At that Time, some of these Gentlemen had determined to set up Teachers of all the Branches of Medicine, in Opposition to the Professors in the University : But after the Junto had agreed upon their Plan, the wiser part of the Surgeon Erectors, foreseeing how invidious and unacceptable this Rivalship would appear to the Publick, and that, at the same Time, it was certainly to lend their Shoulders to the few who were to commence Teachers to mount on, by acknowledging them to be the most sufficient

of their Number, while the Success of their Design to hurt the Professors, established by publick Authority, and, what is still of greater Weight, by general Approbation, was very uncertain: For these obvious Reasons, the wiser part refused to concur in the Support of that Design, but rather to quit their former Scheme concerning a Hospital.

Supposing then, that Rivalship is at heart, the Writer of the Appendix has taken a very wrong Way to perswade the Publick to support the Surgeon Erectors in theirs: Some Exceptions at least might have occurred to him, against the general Doctrine of the Usefulness and Necessity of Rivalship. If the Emulation of Rivals discredits a good or useful Thing, if it hinders the Success of advantageous Undertakings, it ought not to be encouraged, but rather suppressed. Is not that the present Case? The Royal Infirmary is no overgrown Hospital, crowded with more Patients than it is fit to lodge in one House. Funds capable of maintaining Hospitals, equal to the Necessity of the Country, are very difficultly raised, and mutual Reflexions are no proper Means to obtain Donations by; How these Gentlemen are therefore to answer for their Appeal to the Publick, stuff'd with so many ill-

ill-natured Reflexions, founded upon the grossest Misrepresentations of Facts, is hard to say.

But when the Transactions are fairly related, and impartially considered, it is hoped the Publick will readily see,

That Masters had need to take care how they engage People in their Service, who, in the very Offer of their Service, throw what Dirt they can in these Masters Faces.

That a great Number of Surgeons of equal Authority in an Hospital, must breed Confusion, make the Patients ill served, and the young Students worse educated.

That by the Managers of the Infirmary, accepting the Proposals of the Surgeons cœtors, there neither will be any Increase of the Funds of the Infirmary, nor any Advantage to the Country.

That the erecting a rival Hospital to the Royal Infirmary, while it is in its Infancy, will hinder Donations to either, and what Funds are got must maintain fewer sick Poor, because of the double Expence of Houses, Servants, &c.

Upon comparing the two Plans, so far as they are Rivals, it is hoped the Conclusions above will be found to be fairly drawn; but the Appendix Writer tells us of a speci-
ous

ous Bait for the Ladies, to wit, the erecting a School of Midwifery; which, as they lay it, cannot be swallowed by any who knows the Humours of the People, and Constitution of the Country. In a small House of one Floor, where forty or fifty young Men attend every Day, Women are to be kept in Child-bed, *impossible!* If they really intend to assist honest poor Women in Child-bed, and to educate Midwives, let them appropriate their House for that Purpose, which cannot be done in a House for receiving other Patients, unless the Buildings are very large, that the lying-in Women may be lodged quite off from the Apartments of the other Patients.

Will then the Publick encourage and support a certain perpetual Constitution, as the Royal Infirmary is, which cannot fail, or a precarious one, like the Surgeons Hospital, which may be at an End to morrow?

A Set of Gentlemen, vested with publick Authority, as the Infirmary Managers, who have no selfish Ends to serve, and who can have nothing but the publick Good at Heart, or a Set of Surgeons, who chiefly have their private Passions to gratify, and Interest to serve?

F I N I S.

